TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2002

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

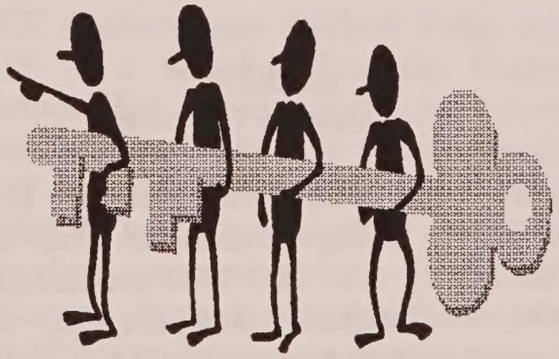
By Bud Hughes K4CWG

At the Orlando ham fest, like in years gone by, TARC rented swap tables. The purposes of these tables were two-fold. First any one having equipment in excess of their needs could place same on the tables and our expert club member sales personnel would try and find someone to unload the goodies on. Second and most important, the tables at the hamfest gives the club members a rendezvous location. I am not sure if the sales made from tables made anyone a millionaire, but one thing for sure! It was great to see so many friends who stopped at the club table and to visit with them.

By the way, for those who need coax (RG8X-mini X) the club has purchased a 1000 ft. spool and should you need coax you may purchase it at the club cost of $.19 per foot. The coax is being shipped from The Wireman in South Carolina and should be available Friday February 15. My phone number is 369-0779.

Sherry and I had the pleasure of having 13 cub scouts to visit our home and let us present amateur radio to them. I want to thank Les K4SJC, Stephanie K4MVO, Archie WN3DHI and John KE4ZPA for getting on 40 meters and talking to those wonderful young people. They were kind enough to send us a letter thanking Sherry and me for our hospitality and for the brownies that I helped Sherry bake. The young cub scouts were introduced to the Morse code. Later in their scouting program they will be required to learn the code. Sherry and I enjoyed their visit and hope the seed planted will achieve fruition.

Remember the club meeting February 26, 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEB. 01 W4AAE MICHAEL WHELPLEY
FEB. 02 K4CWG BUD HUGHES
FEB. 03 KF4WOZ BARBARA DALLAS
FEB. 03 KG4KBO CONSTANCE BERNHARDT
FEB. 04 W4LAC JASON RUDISILL
FEB. 14 WB4ZUY WYNN ROSTEK
FEB. 15 KF4ZOL JIMMY EDWARDS
FEB. 15 KF4UXT JIM TYNER
FEB. 16 KD4ZAH JEWEL SANFORD
FEB. 17 KF4YQL CLARA ABELL
FEB. 17 KF4HTB BECKY LEE
FEB. 25 W4GBW CHARLES MOREHOUSE
FEB. 25 K4IXU JOHN PITTMAN
FEB. 25 KG4MKB VICTORIA DIAZ
FEB. 26 KE4ZPA JOHN RENNINGER
FEB. 28 W4MCH MARC HAWKINS
FEB. 28 KE4BBL CINDY BORTLE

BRIEFS
From January Cyberskip

World's First Cellular Flirting Service: Imagine Charlie Brown having access to this when he was in such misery over that little red-haired girl. Woowho, an Internet dating site, has tapped cellular text-messaging specialist Mobile Way to launch what it claims is the world's first cellular "flirting" service.

The service allows cellular short messaging service users to send notes to each other anonymously, but with Woowho tracking users so the amorous pitches can be replied to.

The Woowho service is now being tested for Vodafone users in the UK, and should go live for BT Cellnet users within a few weeks, said Ian Tester, Woowho's marketing manager.

Anti-Mosquito Software - HONEST! A Thai programmer claims to have developed a software download that, when run on a PC, can discourage mosquitoes from attacking the seated PC operator.

Sarayou Punyaratabunbhu's free Anti-Mosquitoes program has been downloaded from the Thai software side, Thaiware.com, nearly 19,000 times as of Tuesday morning.

After download and installation, the application works by emitting a sound from the computer's speakers. That sound is of a frequency beyond human perception, making it an annoyance only to the mosquitoes.

In an interview with Thailand's The Nation newspaper, Saranyou refers to a scientific study on mosquito flight by the University of Kentucky.

The design of the program was reportedly inspired by existing devices that exploit the same concept - low frequency sounds that impede the mosquitoes ease of flight.

Thaiware.com is on the Web at <http://www.thaiware.com>

Eye in The Sky Will Track California Parolees. The California Corrections Department is developing a program to track parolees via the Global Positioning System. The department signed an agreement last month with Digital Angel Corp., a subsidiary of Applied Digital Solutions Inc. of Palm Beach, FL. The Riverside, CA, subsidiary makes devices for monitoring an individual's whereabouts and vital statistics. The program will track a few hundred high-risk sex offenders, said

Russ Heimerich, a corrections spokesman. "These are the people we're most concerned about keeping away from schools and other areas." He said.

Excerpts from Internet Update - New and Interesting Websites.

Civil War Letters Online:
<http://etext.virginia.edu/civilwar/>
Calorie Counter:
<http://www.webfitness.com/>
Tower of London Ghostwatch:
<http://www.bbcamerica.com/ghostwatch/>
Worst Job: Example - Customer Service:
"Granted we're not in the heat or cold all day but we have to listen to screaming and cursing people all day and have to reply yes ma'am or yes sir."
<http://www.worstjob.com>

THE DOCTOR IS IN
From 01/02 QSL Workbench

Q. Putra Djaja, JZ9DEX, of Jakarta, Indonesia writes: What is, actually, double, triple or quadruple conversionsuperheterodyne receiver, and what are the differences between them?

R. In a superhetrodyne receiver, the radio frequency (RF) signal is converted to another frequency prior to demodulation. This is typically the frequency of a band-pass filter, which removes as many offending signals as possible before they can cause intermodulation distortion. This conversion takes place in the mixer stage of the receiver when the RF signal is mixed with another signal generated by the local oscillator (L.O.). This mixing process produces sum and difference signal frequencies. The difference frequency is amplified and becomes the intermediate frequency, or IF.

In a single conversion superhet, there is only one IF. For example, let us say you have an IF of 4.9 MHz. So if you are listening to 40 meter CW on 7.040 MHz, this signal is mixed down to 4.9 MHz, where it is further amplified and filtered in IF stages of the receiver. After the IF, the signal goes to a detector stage, where it is turned into audio.

A dual-conversion superhet might use a first IF of 9 MHz and a second IF of 455kHz. A triple conversion design would use three Ifs, perhaps 60 MHz, 9Mhz and 455 kHz. A design in which the first IF is higher in frequency than any of the received frequencies is known as an "upconverting" type. Obviously, a quadruple conversion design involves 4 IF stages.

The advantage of more IF stages is that each one can provide less of the overall gain ("better gain distribution" is the term for it), and additional filtering. The disadvantage is that more noise can be introduced at each stage.

Traditional thinking says that more conversion stages and better, although this has been proven to be wrong in some instances. One of the best receivers of the tube era is said to be the Hammarlund HQ-180, a triple conversion design. However, one of the best receivers of recent years is the Elecraft K2, which is a single conversion design.

The most common configurations are double and triple conversion.

FCC NEWS
From 01/02QST

COPPS SAYS FCC HAS "A LARGER JOB TO DO" FCC Commissioner Michael Copps said October 15 in a speech before the Federal Communications Bar Association that he believes the FCC has "a larger job to do in the months and years ahead" than was thought five weeks earlier. "If September 11 was about anything other than evil, it was about communications." Copps said, "Communications from hi-jacked airliners and doomed buildings to loved ones on the ground: communications between emergency care, law enforcement providers and public safety workers; communications between the leaders of our federal,

state and local governments; communications among our military forces around the world; communications by the media to viewers around the globe; and desperate outreach from each of us as citizens to find out what was going on, where our loved ones were, what other threats were coming our way."

While not mentioning - or possibly overlooking - the role of Amateur Radio in the subsequent relief and recovery efforts, Copps said that in the wake of the terrorist attacks, "our telecommunications and media industries performed well and even nobly." Copps went on to say that the FCC does not merely have the directive to consider the public interest in its decisions - it has the statutory obligation to take only actions that are in the public interest. "The events of the last month demonstrate very dramatically that concepts like the safety of the people and the public interest are not mere abstracts, not just theories to endlessly debate." He said.

Kenwood "Sky Command" Petition Put on Public Notice. The FCC in October put on public notice a rulemaking petition from Kenwood Communications Corporation requesting that the FCC relax restrictions on Amateur Radio auxiliary station operation. The FCC assigned the rulemaking number RM-10313 to the petition and invited public comment. The petition marked Kenwood's latest attempt to legalize its "Sky Command" remote station control system.

Kenwood seeks a change in Part 97 rules that would expand permission to operate an auxiliary station on all 2-meter frequencies above 144.5 MHz, except on145.8 to 146.0 MHz. While not mentioning Sky Command by name, Kenwood said the proposed rule change "would allow the development and use by amateurs of new technology devices and increase the utility of the limited amateur allocations." Current FCC rules limit auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

In July 2000, the FCC declared that use of the Sky Command did not comply with Amateur Service rules - specifically 97.201(b) - and declined to grant a waiver to make it legal. The ARRL commented in opposition to Kenwood's earlier efforts to have the system declared to be in compliance, and it refused to permit Sky Command advertisements in QST.

Sky Command lets a user control a fixed HF station via a pair of dual-band transceivers. It operates in full duplex, using frequencies on 70 cm and 2 meters.

In a *Petition for Rule Making* filed May 1, Kenwood asserted that auxiliary operation is "poorly defined" in the FCC rules and "Significantly overregulated." Kenwood argued that present limitations on auxiliary operation no longer are appropriate in today's amateur environment and should be withdrawn.

In Brief: G3AQC spans the Atlantic on 73 kHz! Low-frequency experimenter Lawrence "Laurie" Mayhead, G3AQC, has added another LF accomplishment to his list - transatlantic reception of his 73 kHz signal. Word of the LF exploit came just three weeks before the centennial of the historic transatlantic transmission of December 12, 1901, when Guglielmo Marconi, in Newfoundland, received the letter "S" transmitted from England. On the night of November 21-22, John Andrews, W1TAG, in Holden, Massachusetts, received Mayhead's signal on 72.401 kHz. Mayhead was using dual-frequency CW - or DFCW - featuring elements that are two minutes long, and Andrews detected his signal using ARGO DSP software. Andrews said he's devoted "Quite a number of evenings" to trying to hear G2AQC. "Luck being with us, conditions were absolutely amazing, " he said. The distance between G3AQC and W1TAG was estimated at 3275 miles (5270 km). A year ago, Mayhead and Larry Kayser, VA3LK, in Ontario, completed a transatlantic Amateur Radio contact on 136 kHz.

HINTS AND KINKS: More on "goo removers". This is in response to K14KR's hint in the January column about "goo removers". Other removers work; some are totally biodegradable and probably in your kitchen. Try these removers before spending money on the expensive, toxic stuff: peanut butter, margarine, butter, vegetable oil, WD-40 and car wax. *Wayne yoshida, KH6WZ. Huntington Beach, CA.*

ABOUT HINTS AND KINKS: There has been some discussion of hints from the January column on Internet reflectors and that's a good thing. Hints and Kinks is a forum where hams can share their ideas, and discussion of those ideas is beneficial. We readers should not simply accept any hint as the best solution to a problem. After all, hints are only suggestions from other hams about ways that they have solved problems. There may be better solutions, or a given solution may not work for a particular situation. That's the reason for the note at the end of each Hints and Kinks column. As readers, each of us should evaluate any hint we want to use and decide whether it applies to our situation.

While I do try to screen out harmful hints, I'm not an expert. Hints and Kinks is a forum for communication, and I'm a facilitator, not a judge. That's why many topics appear more than once. The column is a two-way street, and it's important for your thoughts about hints to reach me. Some hints need further discussion and sometimes all of us need to see it. If you have an improvement on a hint, we all want to hear it. So send them in - we can all learn. *KU7G*

ADD SAFETY AND COMFORT FOR TOWER CLIMBING? Several experienced tower workers have told me that the use of rubber hose on tower rungs is a very bad idea. They envision the caulk bond between the hose and tower rung falling and leaving the rung and hose to act as a large roller bearing under the climber's foot. Here's a response from one such reader. KU7G

Having worked on commercial towers for around 30 years, I am appalled at the hint suggesting a rubber hose on a tower rung for "comfort and safety." This is one of the worst things I could imagine. The hose *will* slip, despite RTV or whatever. One of the most dangerous facets of tower climbing is unexpected movement, which is sure to occur with this "idea." If comfort is a concern, obtain the proper climbing boots or stay off the iron. *Michael J. Castellano, KM1R, Guilford, CT*

ABOUT WOMEN

Facts on Figures: There are 3 billion women who don't look like supermodels and only eight who do.

Marilyn Monroe wore a size 14.

The average woman weighs 144 lbs and wears between a 12-14.

An English professor wrote the words,
"Woman without her man is nothing," on the blackboard and directed the students to punctuate it correctly.
The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."
The women wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

The Images of Mother:
Age 4: My Mommy can do anything!
Age 8: My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!
Age 12:My Mother doesn't know quite everything.
Age 14:NaturallyMother doesn't know that, either.
Age 16: Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.
Age 18: That old woman? She's way out of date!
Age 25: Well, she might know a little bit about it.
Age 35:Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.
Age 45: Wonder what Mom would have thought?
Age 65: Wish I could talk it over with Mom

ABELL'S ANECDOTES
By Pike Abell W4EPU

Having lunch with Sam

If you are a member of Sam's Wholesale Club you know that there is always half dozen or so stations set up back in and around the food department serving bite size portions of food items. It is a way of promoting those foods which are there for sale. Some examples are pizza, chicken breast, beef stew, pot pies, chow mien, sausage biscuits, etc. During the holiday season they serve samples of delightful drinks and desserts. Shot size glasses of eggnog, hot apple cider, fruit punch and a variety of citrus drinks. Also fruit cake, candy, mixed nuts and mixed holiday candies. A good time to partake of the samplings is around noon time. That seems to be the time of day when they are the most active.

The idea is make the rounds, stop at each station and sample the goodies. Of course one cannot eat enough to satisfy as a meal in just one round. Therefore it may be necessary to make two, three or, if you have a big appetite, even four rounds. But, it could be a bit embarrassing when you revisit a station if the server happens to recognize you. For that reason it is a good idea to create some type of ingenious and diabolical disguise to throw the servers off just enough that they will probably not recognize you as a repeat customer. Something which may work very well would be to wear a coat and hat the first time around. Then take off the hat for the second trip. Then, off with the jacket. You will obviously be pushing a shopping cart which is a convenient place to store your hat and coat.

So the next time you are shopping at Sam's, have lunch with him. Who knows? You may even sample something you will like well enough to buy it.

Come to think of it, Clara's birthday is coming up this month. I think I will take her to Sam's for her birthday lunch.

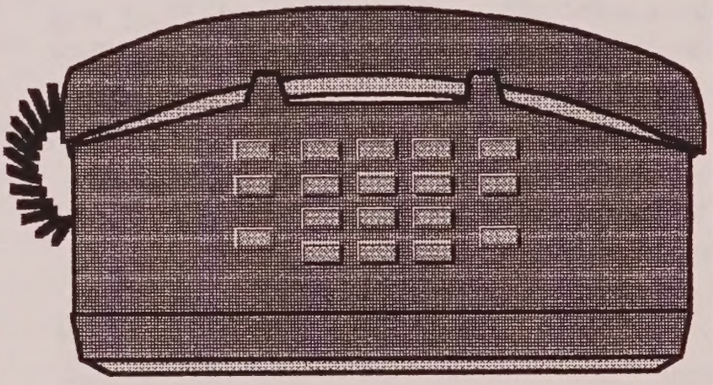
CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

I-COM IC-701
HF TRANSCEIVER
WITH POWER SUPPLY
MFJ TUNER.

$125.00

Call KF4JI Carl Christian
632-5735



LOOKING FOR

MANUAL FOR
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
TI-59
CALCULATOR

CALL WN3DHI ARCHIE
267-8918

JANUARY MINUTES
By OZZIE OSBAND

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 with Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence to remember our silent keys.

The family has asked the club to dispose of AE4NT Arnold's ham gear,

All the club tickets for the Orlando Hamfest have been sold. The club table is in Building 2, tables 2 and 3.

Anthony KF4CEB reported on a message sent by radio from France to a boater on the Intercoastal. The French boater was found in Ft. Pierce 2-1/2 hours later and the message from home was delivered. Also, APRS weather stations will be set up to allow the NWS in Melbourne to receive real-time reports. LASAT is setting up an ATV station during launches to sell "certificates" to tourist stating "Joe Tourist Saw Launch....." Certificates are not sold, but donations accepted.

Anthony will have information at the next meeting to begin preparing for the next hurricane season.

Because the Monday after the meeting is the 4th Monday of the month, some people missed the test session, so Bud will take those folks who need exams home after the meeting, along with a couple of VE's.

Ozzie N4SCY gave a short talk on E-mail via the club web site. He promised an article on it for the next newsletter.

The Blood Bank has more than 100 units of blood credited to the club account. Any member needing blood should contact Don McLean KE4LNS.

The 444.15 Repeater currently has no custodian, and the club is looking at replacing the Motorola equipment with a GE Master II, similar to the 2 meter machines. The club moved, seconded and passed a motion to appoint Mike W4LOV as Custodian. He is to work with Les K4SKC on getting it working.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 2001	$4574.11
Deposits Year to Date	170.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$4744.11**
Expenditures	452.30
BALANCE AS AT 1/31/02	**$4291.81**

CLUB OFFICERS
President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 269-0779
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 321-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS
Pat Renninger, KF4LTY. 267-9431
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Ralph Hall AE4LE
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD

Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building

Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee

Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Mondays at 2000 hrs 146.910

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

BE MY VALENTINE!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 206 (142 regular, 46 family, 12 honorary, 6 other)

NEW MEMBERS:
KG8AV VIRGIL BIRCHFIELD
KG4LKQ EDWARD ALLEN
WD4NPT BILL FARRELL

RENEWALS:
K4BZJ LES WIDICK
KV4DC ROE WEAVER
W4EPU PIKE ABELL
KE4YQL CLARA ABELL
N4IPJ MIKE FINEMAN
KD4JBL WILLIE WILLIAMS
WA4JWU ROGER VERBLE
KG4KBQ BEAU GRANTHAM
KU4LA JOE TIPTON SR.
W8OFR GENE HALL
W5RAQ RON RICHARDSON
KC4RUF THOMAS RAC
KF4UDO RANDALL DAVIS
KT4UD LEONARD ZBIEGIEN
5MUQP ROBERT ROOS
KC4VMP JIM CLARK
KC4VMQ DONNA CLARK

HAMFESTS: 02/16 SEBRING
02/24 ZEPHYRHILLS
03/2 NEW PORT RICHEY
03/2 LANTANA
03/9 PORT CHARLOTTE
03/16 STUART
03/16 FT.WALTON BEACH
03/23 SUNRISE
04/20 TAMPA
04/20 CORAL GABLES
04/27 GAINESVILLE